

[TEMPO 9043797 3230257Z FRP]

UNCLASSIFIED

FRP: .2, .4, . . .

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/PU/LA, ALA/SA/C-2, ALA/SA/D, ALA/SA/R, ALA/SA/RCE, ALA/SA/RPE, ALA/SA/SW-2, ALA/SA/SWR, CPAS/ILS, CPAS/ISS, CR/L, DONOVA, D/FBIS-2, ICS/HC/LA, LA/SS-2, LA/VCE-2, NCECF, NCHT, NCPM, NID/LA, ODPD-D, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/GD/AWH, OGITNATAB2, OPCTR/EALA, ORD/CB, ORD/CRD, ORD/ISRD, ORD/SB, ORD/SMRD, OTS/SAD, PRINT, SOV/TW/RPL,

85 9043797 SUU

PAGE 001

NC 9043797

TOR: 190254Z NOV 85

BOGOTA 14314

OO RUEAIIB  
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
UTS9897  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUEHBO #4314/01 3230100  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZZK  
O 190059Z NOV 85 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3799  
RUEUEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6074  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 2703  
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0881  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 1957  
RUEJCS SECDEF WASHDC//J-3/4/4// IMMEDIATE  
RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEADWD/CSA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEACMC/CMC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
BT  
UNCLAS BOGOTA 14314

STATE PASS TO USAID

AID FOR OFDA AND USGS

USCINCSO DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO COL. KLINE

E.O. 13356: N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

85 9043797 SUO

PAGE 002  
TOR: 190254Z NOV 85NC 9043797  
BOGOTA 14314TAGS: EAID, TPHY, CASC, CO  
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. (36) ERUPTION OF VOLCANO RUIZ

1. FIVE DAYS INTO OUR RELIEF EFFORT FOLLOWING THE VOLCANO EXPLOSION AT NEVADO DEL RUIZ, AENAP-UP OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, WITH MAJOR FOCUS ON THE USG CONTRIBUTION. EMBASSY SITREPS, WHILE COVERING MOST OF THE POINTS DISCUSSED BELOW TO INDIVIDUAL ITEMS, ALSO HAVE DEALT ALREADY WITH OTHER NATION PBM EARLY THURSDAY, AND BY THURSDAY AFTERNOON THE GOC HAD ABSORBED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DISASTER AND OFFICIALLY REQUESTED AID FROM THE USG AND OTHER NATIONS. I DECLARED A DISASTER, AS PROVIDED UNDER U.S. LAW, AND TRAINED RELIEF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT BEGAN MOVING, VIA AID/OFDA, AT USSOUTHCOM AND ELSEWHERE. (EVEN BEFORE THE OFFICIAL DECLARATION, ACTIVE COORDINATION WAS UNDERWAY BETWEEN THIS EMBASSY, THE PERTINENT USG AGENCIES, AND THE GOC). MEANWHILE, THE GOC USING ITS OWN MEANS (ESPECIALLY NATIONAL POLICE AND AIR (#) CRITICAL INITIAL EFFORTS TO RESCUE HUNDREDS OF PERSONS TRAPPED ON ROOFTOPS, IN TREES, AND HALF-BURIED IN THE MUD.

3. AT THIS EMBASSY, WE FORMED AN EMERGENCY DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM, UNDER COORDINATION OF THE AID OFFICER, WHICH WAS KEPT STAFFED AND ACTIVE 24 HOURS A DAY FROM THURSDAY MORNING ON. THROUGH THIS TEAM WERE COORDINATED THE ARRIVAL OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS FROM USSOUTHCOM, OFDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT EXPERT PAUL BELL, USGS VOLCANO EXPERT DARRELL HERD (AND A SUBSEQUENT, LARGER TEAM), MY OWN THREE LENGTHY AND (#)FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY) AND THE VISIT OF GEN. GALVIN, COCSOUTHCOM.

4. BY FRIDAY, INITIAL PLANELOADS OF US AID ARRIVED FROM PANAMA BY C-130 AND HELICOPTERS. TENTS AND BEDDING WERE PRIMARY ITEMS, AND SORELY NEEDED. A COMMAND CENTER WAS ESTABLISHED AT PALANQUERO, AND (THANKS IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE EARLY ARRIVAL OF 500 LARGE TENTS, SUPPLIED FROM AID STOCK AT USSOUTHCOM VIA PANAMA AIRCRAFT) EMERGENCY "TENT CITIES" FOR SURVIVORS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

85 9043797 SUO

PAGE 003  
TOR: 190254Z NOV 85NC 9043797  
BOGOTA 14314

BEGAN TO RISE AT PALANQUERO, LERIDA AND OTHER NEARBY SITES.

5. (#) ITS PEAK AND BEGAN TO LEVEL OFF. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MUD SLIDE WERE SUCH THAT MOST VICTIMS WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT. SURVIVORS WERE PLUCKED FROM THEIR PLACES OF REFUGE AND CARRIED TO SAFER AREAS BY (#) LARGE C-47'S WERE PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL FOR FERRY MISSIONS, SINCE THEY WERE VIRTUALLY THE ONLY HELICOPTERS ON SITE WITH THE CAPACITY TO (#) AIRPLANE, BUT US HEAVY LIFT CAPACITY HELICOPTERS WERE ESSENTIAL TO GET IT TO WHERE IT WAS NEEDED.

6. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, AS LITERALLY DOZENS OF FOREIGN PLANES AND HELICOPTERS DECENDED ON COLOMBIA, THE GOC FORCES WERE EFFICIENT AND PROFESSIONAL IN THEIR MANAGEMENT OF ARRIVING SUPPLIES. BY SUNDAY,

STATE PASS TO USAID

AID FOR OFDA AND USGS

USCINCSO DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO COL. KLINE

E.O. 13356: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TPHY, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. (36) ERUPTION OF VOLCANO RUIZ

AMPLE STOCKS OF ALL KINDS OF NECESSARY SUPPLIES WERE AT THE DISASTER SITES--FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER. WE BEGAN TO CONSIDER GRADUALLY STANDING DOWN THE US AVIATION EFFORT; WHILE RETAINING SOME USEFULNESS. US HELICOPTERS ARE BECOMING LESS ESSENTIAL AS ROADS RE-OPEN, AND ARE INCREASINGLY BEING USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE FERRY MISSIONS. THE GOC HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS, TO BE HELD THIS AFTERNNOON, NOVEMBER 18, TO CONSIDER LONG-RANGE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. THAT WE HAVE REACHED THIS STAGE SO QUICKLY, AFTER AN ENORMOUS HUMAN DISASTER, AND MOREOVER ONE WHICH OCCURRED IN A REMOTE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

85 9043797 SUO

PAGE 004  
TOR: 190254Z NOV 85

NC 9043797  
BOGOTA 14314

AREA WITH VIRTUALLY NO INTACT ROADS, IS A TRIBUTE TO THE SPEED OF THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION AND THE EFFICIENCY (SOMEWHAT MALIGNED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS) OF THE GOC'S MANAGEMENT.

7. IT WILL ALSO BEAR MENTIONING THAT COLUMBIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE USG'S (AND PRIVATE US) RELIEF EFFORTS HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND VERY FAVORABLE. LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO RAN A SPECIAL STORY ENTITLED, "110 US MILITARY MEN ASSISTING IN THE RESCUE". EL ESPECTADOR LED OFF A FULL PAGE STORY ON INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS WITH A PHOTO OF GENERAL GALVIN AND MYSELF AT THE SITE, ALONG WITH A DESCRIPTION OF 12 HELICOPTERS, 110 MEN, AND 350 THOUSAND TONS OF SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY THE USG, AND THE 1100 PERSONS RESCUED BY US EFFORTS.  
GILLESPIE

END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED